(c) The matter was examined in the Ministry and it was decided that bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities at Kakinada Port could be considered when the volume of wheat export expands on a consistent basis.

(d) 11 sites have been identified by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for creation of bulk handling, storage and transportation through private sector participation on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis out of which Nabha-Pipavav circuit has been entrusted to the Central Warehousing Corporatin (CWS) to be executed on a pilot project basis. The other 9 sites are (i) Barnala (ii) Moga (iii) Sirsa (iv) Kaithal (v) Hooghly (vi) Chennai (vii) Coimbatore (viii) Bangalore and (ix) Navi Mumbai.

Food Security to the Poor

†1964. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any effective steps to provide food security to the poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In order to provide food security to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, Government of India introduced Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997 with its focus on the people living below the poverty line. The allocation of foodgrains for families living below poverty line (BPL) which was initially 10 kg. per family per month was increased 20 kg. per family per month *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000 and further to 25 kg. *w.e.f.* July, 2001. The number of BPL families was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

increased *w.e.f.* 1.12.2000 by shifting the base to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the earlier base of 1995, thus bringing a total of 6.52 crore families under BPL category as against the earlier number of 5.96 crore families.

Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) announed by the Prime Minister on 25.12.2000, foodgrains are made to one crore 'poorest of the poor' families from amongst the number of BPL families at highly subsidized rates *i.e.* Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice. AAY has been implemented in all States and Union Territories in the country. Besides TPDS and AAY other complementary welfare schemes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Annapoorna, Food for Work Programme and Mid-day Meals Programme are under implementation for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Pondicherry

1965. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families identified in Pondicherry under "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" during the year 2001; and

(b) the quantity of rice allotted for this scheme to Pondicherry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government of Pondicherry has identified 9000 families under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), for whom 225 MT of rice per month is being allocated @25 Kg. per family per month *w.e.f.* November 2001.